(c) how many new stalls for newspapers and other consumer goods were allowed on the railway platforms all over the country during last three years, alongwith the details thereof, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rail link with Bangladesh

†4100. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to enter into an agreement for railway services with Bangladesh;

(b) whether the railway agreements signed earlier have been implemented;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the outline of the new agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) There are already rail links between India and Bangladesh through the following five routes:

Gede (India)-Darsana (Bangladesh)—Broad Gauge

Singhabad (India)-Rohanpur (Bangladesh)—Broad Gauge

Petrapole (India)-Benapole (Bangladesh)—Broad Gauge

Radhikapur (India)-Birol (Bangladesh)—Broad Gauge on Indian side and Metre Gauge on Bangladesh side.

Mahisasan (India)-Shahbazpur (Bangladesh)—Metre Gauge.

Presently only goods train services are running between India and Bangladesh through the first three Broad Gauge routes. Radhikapur-Birol route has remained suspended since 01.04.2005 due to Broad -gauging on Indian side while the track on Birol-Parbatipur section in Bangladesh

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Railway is still in metre gauge. The Mahisasan-Shahbazpur metre gauge route has not been operational since December, 1996 due to lack of traffic.

An agreement for running passenger train services between Kolkata and Dhaka was signed in July, 2001 for a period of three years between the Governments of Bangladesh and India which was extendable for the further period of three years at a time by mutual consent by the two Governments. However, regular passenger train services did not materialize because of the political situation in Bangladesh at that time. The two countries are now in the process of renewing the erstwhile agreement for running passenger train services between Kolkata and Dhaka.

Railway lines in North Eastern Region

4101. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of railway lines in the North-Eastern Region broad gauge and metre gauge, State-wise;

(b) the demands of new lines placed by different States of the regions; and

(c) the status of these demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The State-wise length of broad gauge and metre gauge railway lines (route kilometres) in the North Eastern Region as on 31.3.2006 (latest available) is given below:-

Name of States of North Eastern Region	Length of railway line (route kilometres)		
	Broad Gauge	Metre Gauge	Total
Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	1.26	1.26
Assam	1227.16	1057.12	2284.28
Manipur	Nil	1.35	1.35
Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	Nil
Mizoram	Nil	1.50	1.50
Nagaland	11.13	1.72	12.85
Sikkim	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tripura	Nil	64.42	64.42
TOTAL:	1238.29	1127.37	2365.66